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marble quarries at West Rutland, to which they were taken in automobiles furnished through the courtesy of the Vermont Marble Company.

The great success of these field meetings was due not only to the region traversed, which is unusually interesting geologically and historically, but also to the care with which every detail was planned and executed, and the pains which the director of the New York State Geological Survey and his staff took to provide for the comfort and pleasure of the party.

This report was written at the request of the busy secretary of the association, Dr. W. O. Hotchkiss, by the undersigned guest of the association.

HERDMAN F. CLELAND

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.

### THE NEWCASTLE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

WE learn from the account of the meeting in *Nature*, that the attendance was 626, the smallest since the first meeting held in York in 1831. It is said, however, that the attendance at the meetings of the sections was quite up to the average.

The general committee adopted a recommendation of the council that research committees should have power to report through organizing committees of sections to the council at any time when the association is not in annual session. Hitherto research committees have had to await the annual meeting before presenting their reports, even when their conclusions call for early action. Under the new rules this will no longer be necessary if the organizing committee to which a research committee presents its report considers it desirable to report direct to the council. Another alteration of the rules of the association makes it possible for the council to include upon research committees persons who are not members of the association, but "whose assistance may be regarded as of special importance to the research undertaken."

The general treasurer has reported to the council that Mr. M. Deshumbert proposed to leave a legacy of about £5,000 to the associa-

tion, subject to the condition that his wife and her sister should receive the interest during their lifetime.

The new members of council elected by the general committee are Mr. R. A. Gregory, Dr. S. F. Harmer, Dr. E. J. Russell, Dr. A. Strahan and Professor W. R. Scott. An invitation to meet in Cardiff in 1918 was unanimously and gratefully accepted by the committee.

The total grants of money appropriated by the general committee for purposes of research committees proposed by the various sections amounted to £602. The subjects and grants are as follows:

*Section A.*—Seismological observations, £100; annual tables of constants, £40; mathematical tables, £20; gravity at sea, £10.

*Section B.*—Dynamic isomerism, £15; Eucalypts, £30; absorption spectra, etc., of organic compounds, £10.

*Section C.*—Red Sandstone rocks of Kiltorecan, £4; Paleozoic rocks, £20.

*Section D.*—Biology of the Abrolhos Islands, £6; inheritance in silkworms, £20.

*Section F.*—Fatigue from an economic point of view, £40; replacement of men by women in industry, £20; effects of war on credit, etc., £10.

*Section G.*—Stress distributions, £40.

*Section H.*—Artificial islands in the lochs of the Highlands of Scotland, £5; physical characters of ancient Egyptians, £2, 12s. (unexpended balance); Paleolithic site in Jersey, £30; excavations in Malta, £20; distribution of Bronze age implements, £1, 14s. (unexpended balance).

*Section I.*—Ductless glands, £15; psychological war research, £10.

*Section K.*—Physiology of heredity, £45; ecology of fungi, £8.

*Section L.*—School book and eyesight, £5; work of museums in education and research, £15; effects of "free-place" system upon education, £15; science teaching in secondary schools, £10; mental and physical factors involved in education, £10.

*Corresponding Societies' Committee.*—For preparation of report, £25.

### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR CHARLES PARSONS, the engineer, has been elected president of the British Association for the meeting to be held at Bournemouth in September next.